

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4284

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3747

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: FREEZE ON FORCES OF DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

LIMDIS

REF: A. VIENNA 1504 (NOTAL) B. USNATO 5375, NOV 8, 1973

SUMMARY: AT FEB 26 SPC DISCUSSION OF LINKAGE BETWEEN PHASES, UK REP SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES RE-EXAMINE BRITISH PROPOSAL OF LAST NOVEMBER (REF B) THAT DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE THAT THEY "WILL NOT RAISE THE TOTALAGGREGATE MANPOWER OF THEIR GROUND FORCES PERMANENTLY STATIONED IN CENTRAL EUROPE WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE". DUTCH, CANADIAN AND BELGIAN REPS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION. MISSION BELIEVES THAT FRESH CONSULTATIONS ON UK PROPOSAL WILL PROVIDE A GOOD BAROMETER OF EUROPEAN ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO THE EAST ON INCLUSION OF THEIR FORCES

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IN MBFR. WE SUGGEST WAITING FOR FURTHER COMMENTS FROM THEM BEFORE WEIGHING IN WITH US VIEWS. END SUMMARY

1. DUTCH REP SUGGESTED ON A PERSONAL BASIS THAT ALLIES LOOK

AGAIN AT UK NOV 8 PROPOSAL. HE RECALLED NETHERLANDS' VIEW THAT EAST WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO ACCEPT ALLIANCE MBFR POSITION FOR PHASE I WITHOUT SOME ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO NON-US FORCES, AND HE NOTED THAT COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEARING OUT VALIDITY OF DUTCH ANALYSIS. HE ADDED THAT SUCH A FREEZE ON NON-US NATO FORCES AND NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE NGA WOULD HELP FEND OFF PRESSURES IN PARLIAMENT FOR SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN DUTCH FORCES, WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE LIKELY TO GROW.

2. UK REP SAID THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON WHICH ALSO SUGGESTED RE-EXAMINATION OF BRITISH NOV 8 PROPOSAL. UK PROPOSAL WAS INITIALLY PUT FORWARD IN CONTEXT OF PRE-REDUCTION CONSTRAINTS, BUT SAID THAT FIRST PARA OF UK WOULD STILL APPLY TO CURRENT SITUATION.

3. BELGIAN REP EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION AT JOINT UK-DUTCH SUGGESTION AND BELIEVED THAT SPC SHOULD GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS OF DISCUSSING POSSIBLE ASSURANCES WITH RESPECT TO EUROPEAN FORCES. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION OF FACTORS INVOLVED IN LINKAGE ISSUE WAS IMPORTANT, BUT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE UNDERLYING POLITICAL PROBLEM. THIS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF LENGTHY DISCUSSION IN THE ALLIANCE, BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ALL ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM BEFORE PROVIDING INTERIM GUIDANCE TO AD HOC GROUP. CANADIAN REP SAID THAT OTTAWA'S VIEWS WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF BELGIAN. PHASE II SHOULD BEIN WITHIN A FIXED PERIOD OF TIME AND NEED NOT BE DELAYED UNTIL THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASE I IS CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: DISCUSSION OF UK PROPOSAL WILL BE A GOOD INDICATOR OF CURRENT THINKING IN ALLIED CAPITALS ON POSSIBLE ASSURANCES TO EAST WITH RESPECT TO INCLUSION OF NON-US FORCES. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT WASHINGTON AWAIT FURTHER EXPRESSIONS OF ALLIED VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT, BEFORE TAKING A FIRM POSITION. STATEMENTS BY UK, DUTCH AND BELGIAN REPS INDICATE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT RECENT ITALIAN PAPER CIRCULATED TO EC-9 (REF A) AND WHICH OPPOSED A FREEZE ON NON-US FORCES HAS NOT YET WON
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MANY ADHERENTS. END COMMENT RUMSFELD

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